

## **QA11 – Phyto-Bears**

### **QUESTION:**

I have had several families recently who give their children Phyto-Bears, which are like Gummi-Bears, but made from vegetables and fruits. They are using this product in place of a children's multivitamin. The package doesn't list the nutrient content. Who makes them? And what nutrients do they contain?

### **ANSWER:**

The company that makes Phyto-Bears is Mannatech, Inc., in Coppell, Texas. The nutrient content and composition table is not listed in the product brochure or on the box. The ingredients listed are: Freeze-dried aloe vera gel extract, flash-dried broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, garlic, kale, onion, papaya, pineapple, tomato and turnip in vegetable gelatin and fruit fructose.

There are two numbers listed for customer service, one has been disconnected, and the other is a private residence of a sales rep who does not know the exact vitamin and mineral content.

Some nutritionists at my facility are uncomfortable recommending the product because of inadequate information and the fact that it is essentially a medication made to look like candy.

The product sells for about \$20.00 for a box of 60. The recommended dose for a 6-11 yr. old is 1/day and for 12 and older it is 2/day. No recommendations are made for children under 6.